

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7593
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLO, LE
SUBJ: REJECTIONISTS' POSITION ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF STATEMENT ISSUED APRIL 9
BY PALESTINIAN REJECTION FRONT AS CARRIED BY LEFTIST
NEWSPAPER AL LIWA:

2. BEGIN EXCERPTS: "UNIFIL CAME TO LEBANON UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF A UN RESOLUTION TO SUPERVISE THE WITHDRAWAL
OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM THE SOUTH.

3. "WE UNDERSTAND UNIFIL'S MISSION TO BE ONLY ON THIS
BASIS, AND ONLY ON THIS BASIS CAN WE DEAL WITH UNIFIL.
OTHERWISE, WE SAY NO TO UNIFIL, WHICH WOULD THEN REPRESENT
A NEW OCCUPATION OF LEBANESE SOIL.

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4. "WE WILL NOT LET UNIFIL OBSTRUCT OUR FREEDOM TO FIGHT
THE ZIONIST ENEMY. WE WOULD RESIST IT IN THIS CASE
WITH ALL AVAILABLE MEANS. . . .

5. "REGARDING THE LEBANESE ARMY AND LEBANESE GENDARMES,
WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE FORCES TO PRESERVE THE LEBANESE

BORDERS FROM ZIONIST AGGRESSION AND TO PRESERVE LEBANESE SECURITY. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THEY ARE TO PROHIBIT OUR REVOLUTION FROM FIGHTING ITS ENEMY, NOR DOES IT MEAN FORMING A SECURITY BELT FOR THE ENEMY. WE WILL DEAL WITH THE AUTHORITIES' ARMY AND GENDARMES ON THIS BASIS. THUS, WE HAVE FOUGHT AND WILL FIGHT THE AUTHORITIES' ARMY AS REPRESENTED NOW BY SA'D HADDAD'S ARMY AND OTHER ISOLATIONIST FORCES WHICH ARE IN ALLIANCE WITH OUR ENEMY." END EXCERPTS.

6. COMMENT: FOR REJECTIONISTS, STATEMENT IS RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. IT DOES NOT TOTALLY REJECT UNIFIL PRESENCE ALTHOUGH IT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE REJECTIONISTS WILL ATTACK LEBANESE ARMY IF THEY PERCEIVE LAF IS PREVENTING OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL; UNIFIL IF THEY PERCEIVE IT IS PREVENTING OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. IT ALSO MAKES CLEAR THAT THE REJECTIONISTS: (A) WILL ATTACK LEBANESE ARMY IF THEY PERCEIVE LAF IS PREVENTING OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL; AND (B) WILL OBEY NO CEASEFIRE WITH SA'D HADDAD'S FORCES.

7. REJECTIONISTS' POSITION AS REPRESENTED BY THIS STATEMENT DIFFERS MORE IN TONE THAN SUBSTANCE FROM FATAH POSITION (SEE BEIRUT 2048). FATAH HAS SAID PLO WOULD COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL ONLY INSOFAR AS LATTER INSURED ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, AND FATAH HAS STRONGLY CRITICIZED SA'D HADDAD'S FORCES. FATAH, HOWEVER, HAS NOT SO FAR MADE ANY THREATS INVOLVING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEBANESE ARMY, ALTHOUGH FATAH WOULD PROBABLY NOT ALLOW THE LAF TO PREVENT OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. DESPITE THE SIMILARITY OF THEIR PUBLIC POSITIONS, FATAH IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BEHAVE WITH GREATER RESTRAINT THAN THE REJECTIONISTS. PARKER

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